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THE COMIC READER

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Number 105
April 1974

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Our Cover: Alex Toth's own character, The Fox, in an illustration especially for TCR. © Alex Toth

The COMIC READER

April 1974
Volume 1, Number 105

Jerome Sinkovec
Editor & Publisher

David Finger
New York Reporter

Michael Tiefenbacher
Editor

Liam O'Connor
Fanzine Reviews

Jerry Bails
Founder

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Marvel News

Marvel has discontinued its 35¢ line and its 60¢ line in favor of a line of 50¢, 68 page four color comics. This line will average 30 pages of new material per issue, sometimes more, sometime s less.

Conan will be leaving SAVAGE TALES to star in his own black and white magazine ($1/80 pages) that will be called THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN.

Taking over Conan's vacated spot in SAVAGE TALES will be a re-vamped version of Ka-Zar by John Buscema and Gerry Conway. In order to give Big John time to handle the art chores on this new series, Rich Buckler will be taking over THOR and will draw it in a Kirby style.

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Another new black and white title in the Marvel line will be PLANET OF THE APES. Half of the book will be comic art by Doug Moench and Mike Ploog. The rest of the book will feature articles and interviews.

All of the black and white books are on a bi-monthly schedule with the exception of CRAZY which is down for seven issues a year.

Neal Adams has a script for a 8 page Howard the Duck story to be featured in one of the black and white books. Steve Englehart and Alan Weiss are doing a Solomon Kane tale. Don.McGregor will be doing more non-series black and white work. Tony DeZuniga is doing a two-part story for DRACULA LIVES and Alfred Alcala is doing a story for TALES OF THE ZOMBIE, and both stories are written by Doug Moench.

Speaking of Doug Moench (notice the snappy transitions, sign of a really high class zine!)...

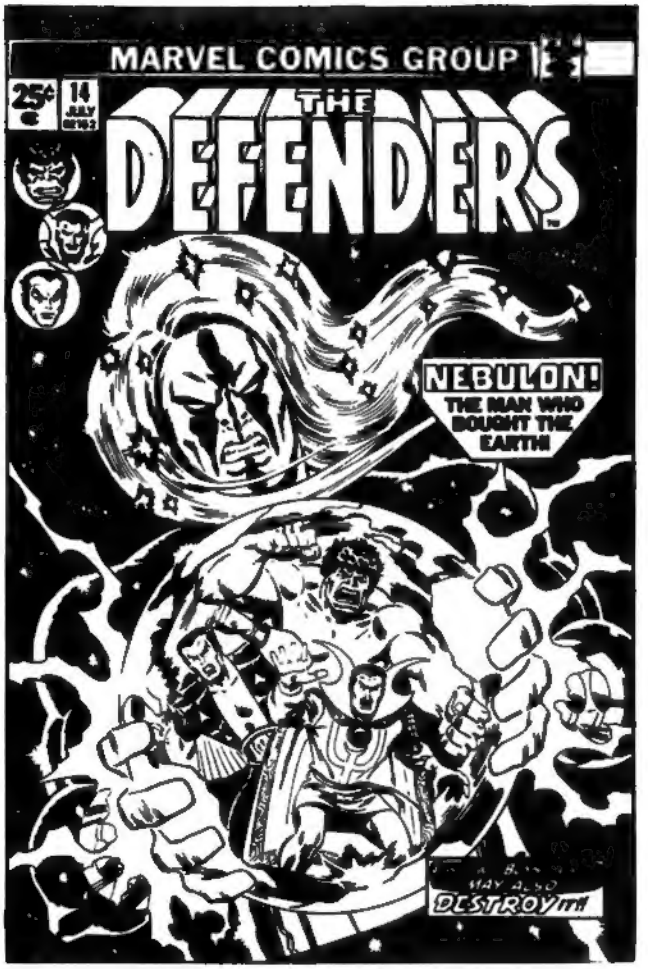
Doug has taken over the writing of the color and black and white Shang-Chi series, and he will take over the script chores on Frankenstein with issue #12. He will bring the adventures of the monster up to the present time period.

Gil Kane may do a Shang-Chi story. Alan Weiss, Ron Wilson, and Craig Russell will also do Master of Kung Fu stories.

Shang-Chi, MASTER OF KUNG FU is currently appearing in 8 page weekly stories over in England in AVENGERS WEEKLY. These stories are planned for use in a quarterly 50¢ comic special here.

The second issue of DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU will not feature the Sons of the Tiger (which came in late), and could not run two new Shang-Chi stories (since one story could not be scheduled in time to be lettered), and so will reprint the origin of the Master of Kung Fu from SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION #15.

DAREDEVIL is on the monthly schedule again.



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MARVEL TEAM-UP #24 will have Spider-Man paired with Brother Voodoo in "Moondog is Another Name For Murder" written by Len Wein, layouts by Jim Mooney, art by Dick Ayers and inks by Sal Trapani. Jim Mooney takes over the pencilling with issue #25, which teams Spidey with Daredevil against The Unholy Three. Issue #26, out the same time as the Spidey-Dracula Giant Size book, will have the Human Torch and Thor.

Len Wein will take over the scripting on the Hulk with the Green Goliath's 179th issue. This issue will bring back the Missing Link, issue 180 will return the Wendigo and #181 will feature the debut of The Wolverine, Marvel's first Canadian hero.

Gerry Conway and Carla Joseph were married on January 18th. Murry Friedman also tied the knot a while ago (although not on January 18th and not to Gerry Conway or Carla Joseph).

Marie Severin is devoting her time exclusively to CRAZY magazine.

Craig Russell may do an issue of War of the Worlds.

Marvel's two new reprint books, HUMAN TORCH and NIGHT RIDER, will first appear on the stands in June and July, respectively. (September and October cover dates.) The Torch book will reprint material from the 1940's.

DEFENDERS #15 and 16 will guest feature Professor X as the Defenders join to battle the Evil Mutants and Magneto whose base is in Carlsbad Caverns. The Nighthawk will also get a new costume in this story. Issues #17 and 18 will guest feature Luke Cage, Powerman, in a battle with the Wrecker (the old Thor villain).

Upcoming material for 60¢ 100 pagers and 35¢ 52 pagers will be used as separate quarterlies. The first GIANT DEFENDERS will feature a minimum of new material that will connect reprinted stories. The second issue will have the Defenders and The Son of Satan battling the Manipulator to rescue the Hulk from his private hell. GIANT MARVEL TEAM-UP will have Spider-Man with Dracula in the first issue and Shang-Chi in the second.

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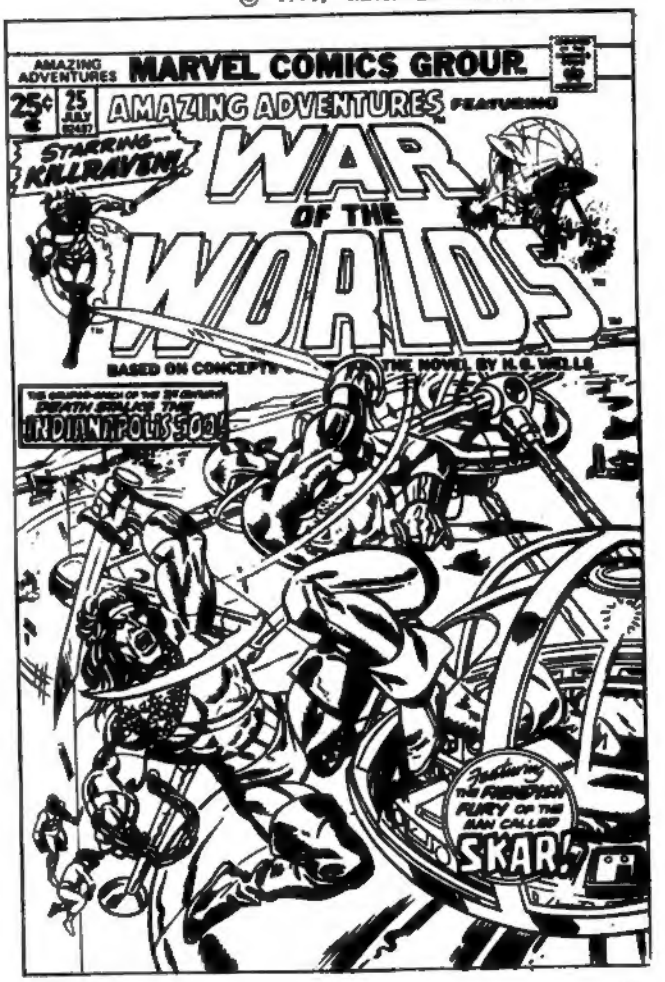
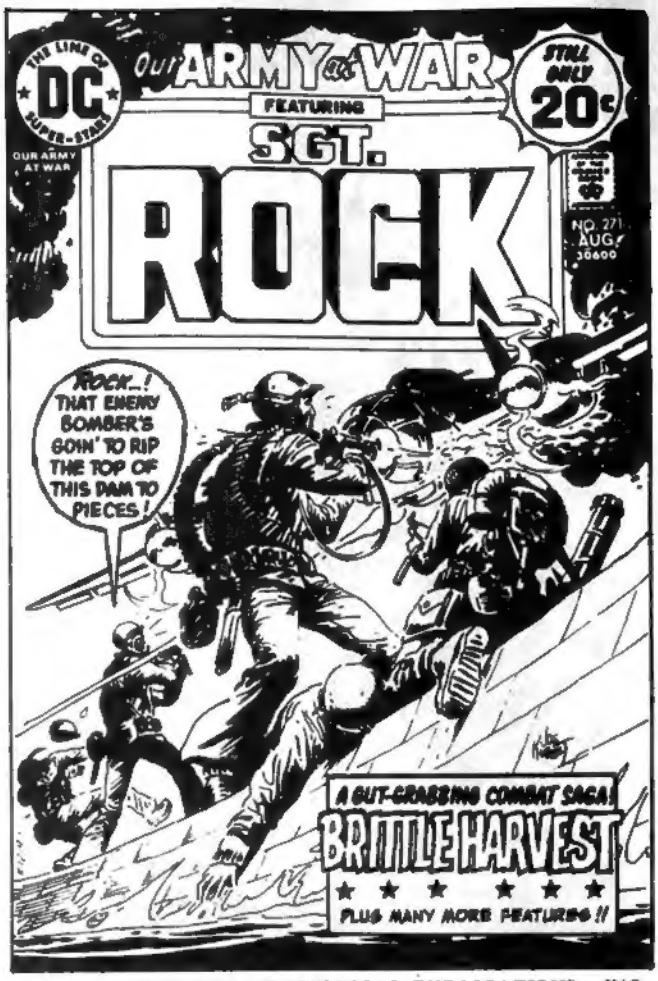


National News

A decision has been made not to hire a different editor to handle the books Archie Goodwin has been editing. They will be split up among the other National editors, with Julius Schwartz taking over DETECTIVE COMICS, as we reported last issue, Joe Orlando the new editor of STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES, Murray Boltinoff now guiding G. I. COMBAT and Jack Kirby becoming the editor of OUR FIGHTING FORCES. Any changes in the formats and/or lead features of the books are just being considered as we go to press and will be reported as soon as possible.

When Julie Schwartz takes over as editor of DETECTIVE COMICS, there will be a five part Batman serial with Ras a' Gul and the Creeper written by Len Wein. The back-up features will probably be Elongated Man and Robin.

STRANGE SPORTS STORIES has been dropped from the schedule in order to give Julie Schwartz time to handle DETECTIVE. The last issue will be #6.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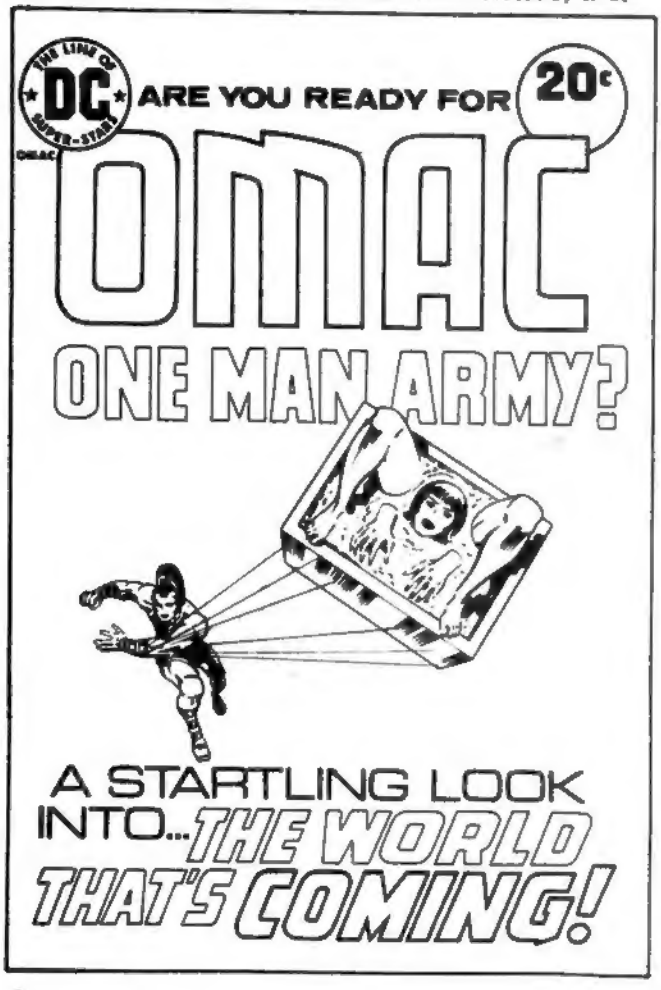

Jack Kirby's new book, OMAC, will be a bi-monthly. The first issue, which is scheduled to be released in June, will feature Omac's origin.

Reprint back-up features in future issues of WORLD'S FINEST will rotate Deadman, Metamorpho, Vigilante, Black Canary, and Rip Hunter.

The next issue of the BRAVE AND THE BOLD will have Batman teaming up with Aquaman in the lead story, and reprints of the Teen Titans, the Green Arrow/Martian Manhunter team-up, and Aquaman by Jim Mooney. The following issue leads off with Batman and the Atom with reprints of the Challengers of the Unknown, the first Doctor Fate/Hourman teamup by Murphy Anderson, the Blackhawks and the Atom. Issue #116 will have Batman sharing a story with the Spectre.

Batgirl will be teaming up with Superman in the September issue of SUPERMAN (#279). Kamandi is slated to meet up with an intelligent dolphin, and Captain Marvel will run into the Man of Steel's favorite foe, Luthor, in an upcoming issue of SHAZAM!

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The third LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION SILVER MINT SERIES will be SENSATION COMICS #1, which featured Wonder Woman, The Black Pirate, and the origins of Wildcat, Mr. Terrific and Little Boy Blue and the Blue Boys. The fourth issue will reprint the first issue of WHIZ COMICS (#2) which, besides the origin of Captain Marvel, features the first appearances of Ibis the Invincible, Spy Smasher, Golden Arrow, Doctor Voodoo, Dan Dare, Lance O'Casey, and others.

The LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION $1 books will rotate Shazam!, Tarzan, House of Mystery, Batman, Superman, and Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

Alex Toth reports he is working on the Batman story that will appear in DETECTIVE and the job has him "tied up in knots!" since he wants to do the best possible job on his first chance at the Batman, a character he has always wanted to draw. We'll be expecting a really great job. He also mentions he just finished a 5 page PLOP story of a Hefner-esque fella and an 11 page horror story entitled "A Connecticut Ice Cream Man In King Arthur's Court."

SWAMP THING #12 will feature the creature being pulled through time with Milo Mobius, the Eternity Man, who is searching for an end to his immortality. Issue #13 will reveal Cable's boss, the man behind the conspiracy against the Swamp Thing in "The Leviathan Conspiracy." The fourteenth issue features the battle of the Swamp Thing versus the Swamp Thing, as an arm that was cut off of our fierce friend some time back grows a body in the same manner that Swampy grew another arm.

Starting with the twelfth issue of SWAMP THING, Nestor Redondo will also be doing the covers.

Issue #114 of JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA will feature the return of Anakronus in a story that, in the large use of flashbacks, features the "return" of the Martian Manhunter and Snapper Carr, in what author Len Wein calls a "Gardner Fox story."

WEIRD WAR TALES #28 will feature a book length story. Issue #227 of the HOUSE OF MYSTERY will feature a 20 page story novel. About this time there will be a Phantom-Stranger-Deadman team-up.

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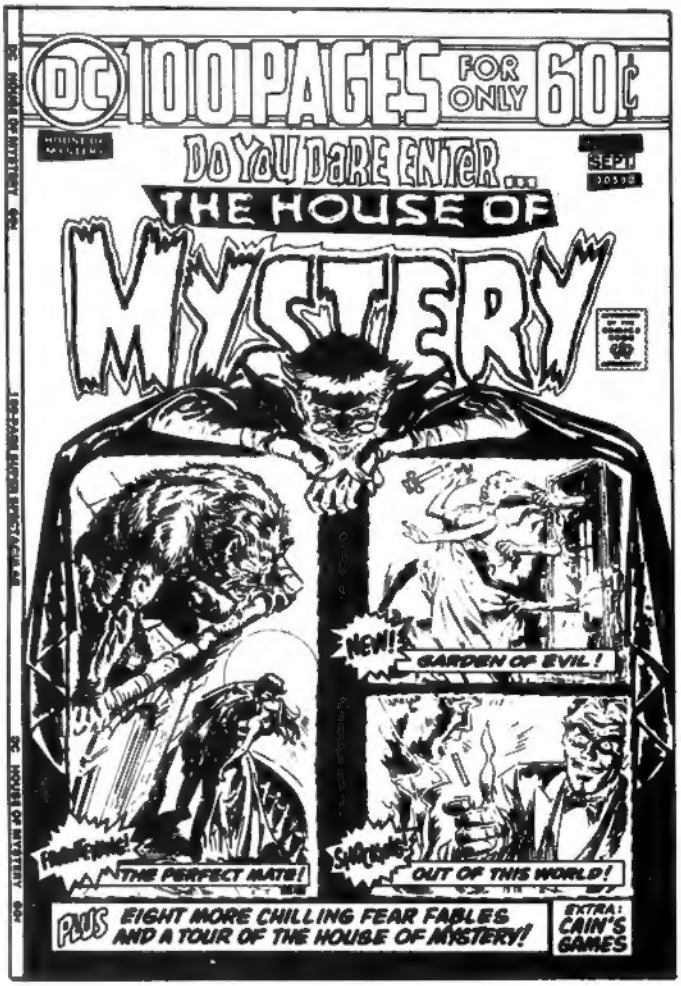
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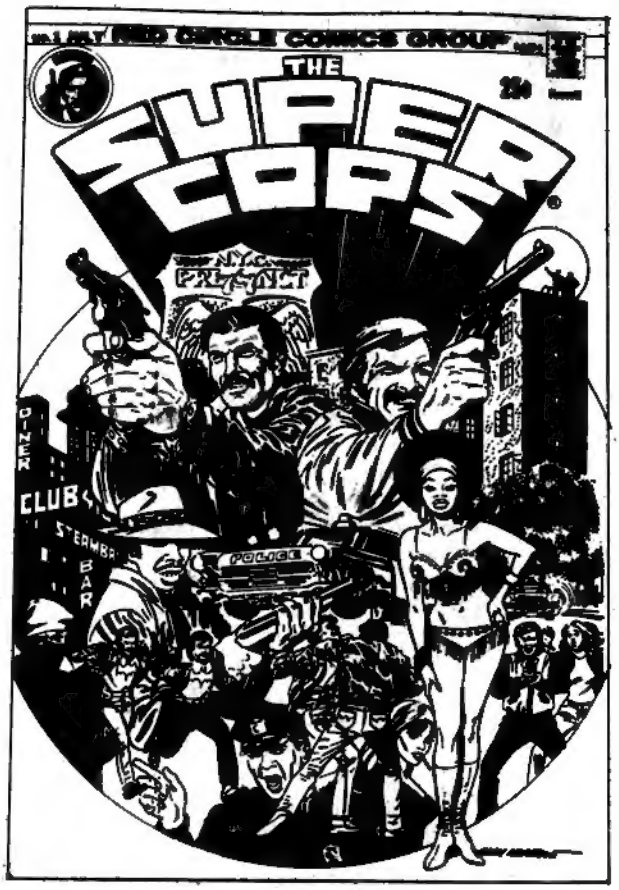
Red Circle News

The eighth issue of RED CIRCLE SORCERY will feature a story by Alex Toth.

Coming Comic

THE SUPER COPS (1, July). This new book is about the exploits of Bob Hantz and Dave Greenberg, the heroes the movie of the same title is about. Four stories written by Marv Channing are featured: "Crime Is Out Of Fashion," a 7 pager by Gray Morrow, "Bedlam Beat," a 6 pager drawn by Carlos Pino, "The Next Stop... The Cemetary," which is 6 pages by V. Hack, and "2 To Get Ready, And 4 To Go," a 6 pager by Frank Thorne. Cover, reproduced at right, is by Gray Morrow. (On sale in late April)



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COMING COMICS is a listing of upcoming releases from the major comic art publishers. The "on sale" dates are from the publishers' production schedules and serve as approximate indications of the date your local distributor may feel like putting the material on display. The following is the format of each listing:

TITLE (Number, cover date). Description of all known contents, credits for the feature/s in this order: writer, artist, inker. (On sale date)

Marvel Coming Comics

VAMPIRE TALES (5, June). Morbius is featured in "Blood Tide" by Don McGregor, Rich Buckler and Ernie Chua and the reprinted "Origin of Morbius" by Roy Thomas, Gil Kane and Frank Giacoia. Movie articles include "Count Yorga - Vampire of the Year" by Chris Claremont and "Devil's Den" by Carla Joseph. Other stories are "Angel's Soul" by Chris Claremont and Barcells and "The Vampire Wants Blood" by Doug Moench and Val Mayerik. (4/2) 75¢

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DAREDEVIL (111, July). presents "Sword of the Samurai" (who is a new villain) by Steve Gerber and Don Heck. (4/2)

KID COLT, OUTLAW (184, July). (4/2)

SAVAGE TALES (4, June). Conan stars in the extra-long story "The Dark Man" which features script by Roy Thomas, pencilling by Gil Kane and inking by Neal Adams and everybody else. Also in this issue is an article on the Gnome Press, a review of the movie "Jason and the Argonauts," and a reprint of a b&w Conan story by Roy Thomas and Barry Smith that was used in the color CONAN comic when SAVAGE TALES was discontinued. (4/2) 75¢

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES (44, July). The alien robot battles the Sub-Mariner in "The Prince and the Power" by Stan Lee and Bill Everett, and the Hulk faces the Stranger's return to Earth in "Then, There Shall Come a Stranger" by Stan Lee and Gil Kane. Both stories are reprinted from TALES TO ASTONISH #89. (4/2)

TOMB OF DRACULA (22, July). A Russian vampire legend is used in "In Death Do We Join" by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (4/2)

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL (29, July). Assorted Atlas reprints. (4/2)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (177, July). "The Peril of the Plural Planets" is the second part of the Warlock trilogy. The Warlock is murdered and counterearth is on the brink of destruction. The trilogy is Roy Thomas' concept, scripting is by Gerry Conway, and art is by Herb Trimpe and Jack Abel. (4/2)

MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN (32, July). Reprints of some of Marvel's western characters. (4/2)

MARVEL SPECTACULAR (8, July). The Thunder God's first battle with Ulik, the Troll is reprinted in "The Thunder God and the Troll" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Vince Colletta from THOR #137. The same credits apply to "The Jaws of the Dragon," a Tales of Asgard chapter from JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #123. (4/2)

BEWARE (9, July). Reprints of Atlas mystery stories from the '50s. (4/2)

●

MY LOVE (29, July). Romance reprints. (4/9)

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MONSTERS UNLEASHED (6, June). Featured: Another chapter of "Frankenstein, 1974" by Doug Moench and Val Mayerik, "The Scrimshaw Serpent" by Doug Moench and a Spanish artist whose name no one recalls, "Dark Flame" by Gerry Conway and Friexas, part 1 of a Werewolf by Night text tale by Gerry Conway, and articles. (4/9) 75¢

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (134, July). "Danger is a Man Called Tarantula," a new villain who hijacks a sightseeing cruise ship on the Hudson river. Credits for the story go to Gerry Conway, Ross Andru and Frank Giacoia. (4/9)

CRYPT OF SHADOWS (11, July). Atlas mystery stories are reprinted. (4/9)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (175, July). Cap and the Falcon conclude their battle against the Secret Empire in a battle with Moonstone on the White House lawn! And No. 1 of the Secret Empire is unmasked in the White House! "...Before the Dawn" is by Steve Englehart, Sal Buscema and Vince Colletta. (4/9)

WESTERN GUNFIGHTERS (23, July). Western reprint tales. (4/9)

MARVEL GIANT-SIZE CHILLERS (2, July). Werewolf by Night faces "Tigra the Were-Woman" and the hordes of Hydra, with a guest appearance by The Cat (Greer Nelson). Brought to you by Tony Isabella, Don Perlin and Vince Colletta. (4/9) 35¢

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS (50, July). Ben and Reed trace Alicia's disappearance while the reason for her disappearance is explained to her in "When Opens the Cocoon" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott from FANTASTIC FOUR #67. (4/9)

THOR (225, July). Hercules continues to guest star as he and the Thunder God face a new foe in "The Coming of the Fire-Lord" by Gerry Conway, John Buscema and Mike Esposito. (4/9)

FRANKENSTEIN (11, July). "And In The End" Victor Frankenstein dies and the monster is mortally wounded. The final script on the monster for Mike Friedrich is illustrated by Bob Brown and Vince Colletta. Next issue Doug Moench takes over as new writer on the creature. (4/9)

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION (19, July). The Fantastic Four appear briefly in "Enter Dr. Doom," when their most famous foe attempts to smash the Avengers. Stan Lee, Don Heck and Dick Ayers put together this reprint which first appeared in AVENGERS #25. (4/9)

DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU (2, June). Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu in a new story by Steve Englehart and and Alan Weiss and a reprint of his origin by Englehart, Starlin and Milgrom. Articles include David Carradine as "The Sholin Priest of Laural Canyon," part one of a two part article on "Enter the Dragon," a preview of the biographical book on Bruce Lee called "Lee's Life," a movie review of "The Dragon's Vengeance," and a section on training for Kung Fu. (4/9) 75¢

THE SUB-MARINER (71, July). In this issue's "Comes the Piranha" we learn the man-fish's connection with Dr. Dorcus and Tiger Shark. Story is by Marv Wolfman, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (4/16)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (40, July). "The Fiend From the Forgotten City" by Roy Thomas, Rich Buckler and Ernie Chua. (4/16)

CHAMBER OF CHILLS (11, July). Atlas mystery stories of the fifties and the sixties. (4/16)

MONSTERS OF THE MOVIES (1, June). Edited by Jim Harmon, this 84 page premeire issue features a cover story about King Kong, a never before published article/interview with Boris Karloff that will conclude next issue, a reprint of "The Demon That Devoured Hollywood" by Roy Thomas and Barry Smith, and articles on Frankenstein, current monster movies in progress, Jeff Rire (author of "The Night Stalker" and "The Night Strangler") and real life monsters. (4/16) $1

THE AVENGERS (125, July). The Avengers battle Thanos' pirate space fleet in the reaches of outer space in "The Power of Babel" written by Steve Englehart, laid out by John Buscema, and illustrated by Dave Cockrum. The Thanos saga is continued in this month's issue of CAPTAIN MARVEL. (4/16)

MAN-THING (7, July). When the energy crisis stops the construction of F.A. Schist's airports, he blames the Man-Thing and the chase leads to a fountain of youth in the swamps. "The Old Die Young" sees the exit of F.A. Schist from the strip. Story is by Steve Gerber and Mike Ploog. (4/16)

AMAZING ADVENTURES (25, July). "The Devil's Marauder" has Killraven battling a new villain called Skar in the midst of the Martian ruler's version on the Indianapolis 500. Story by Don McGregor, Rich Buckler and Klaus Janson. (4/16)

THE DEFENDERS (14, July). "...And Who Shall Inherit The Earth" is the second half of the Nebulon story where the Earth is being sold by the Squadron Sinister. Credits go to Len Wein , Sal Buscema and Dan Greene. (4/16)

CAPTAIN MARVEL (33, July). The long battle against Thanos concludes as the ruler of Titan becomes "The God Himself." Plot, pencils and coloring by Jim Starlin, dialogue by Steve Englehart and inking by Klaus Janson. (4/16)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (16, July). The Son of Satan battles the followers of his father in "4000 Holes in Forest Park" by Steve Gerber, Jim Mooney and Sal Trapani. (4/16)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (4, July). The Thing and Captain America get together in "Doomsday 3014" by Steve Gerber, Sal Buscema and Joe Sinnott. After a brief appearance by Wundarr, Ben and Cap return to the Baxter Building, where a malfunctioning time machine they got from Dr. Doom deposits a girl from the future in the present. The girl tells them about a future of enslavment for the human race. In the first of several parts, Cap and the Thing head for the future to free mankind. (4/16)

FANTASTIC FOUR (148, July). The Wizard, Sandman, Thundra and the Trapster re-group as "The Frightful Four Strike Again" by Gerry Conway, Rich Buckler and Joe Sinnott. (4/23)

MARVEL GIANT-SIZE SUPER-STARS (3, July). This issue features Conan. (4/23) 35¢

MARVEL TEAM-UP (23, July). The Iceman and the Human Torch battle Iquinox, The Thermodynamic Man in "The Night of the Frozen Inferno" by Len Wein, Gil Kane and Ross Andru. (4/23)

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WEREWOLF BY NIGHT
WEREWOLF BATTLES VAMPIRES!
STRIKE LIZA! EVEN A HALF-HUMAN CAN PROVIDE FRESH BLOOD FOR THE UNDEAD!
THE HAUNTING OF HOLLYWOOD HILLS!

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WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (19, July). Jack once again battles vampires, this time in the States. Don Perlin and Vince Colletta illustrate "Vampires on the Moon," Mike Friedrich's last script for this book. Next issue Doug Moench starts scripting. (4/23)

RAWHIDE KID (121, July). Stories of Marvel's young western wanted man. (4/23)

KA-ZAR (4, July). Ka-Zar battles Maa-gor the Man-God in "Into the Shadows of Chaos" by Mike Friedrich, Don Heck and Mike Royer. Cover by Frank Brunner. (4/23)

MARVEL PREMIERE (16, July). The conclusion of Iron Fist's origin explains the power of his iron fist and has him leaving the monastery to search out his father's killer. A new villain named Scythe is introduced in "The Heart of the Dragon" by Len Wein, Larry Hama and Dick Giordano. (4/23)

SGT. FURY (120, July). Fury and the Howlers raid a prison camp to free Izzy Cohen's uncle in "Trapped in the Compound of Death" by Larry Leiber and Dick Ayers. (4/23)

CREATURES ON THE LOOSE (30, July). J. Jonah Jameson's son is the Man Wolf, and his new series debuts here with "Full Moon, Dark Fear" by Doug Moench, George Tuska and Vince Colletta, with an assist on the inking by Marie Severin. (4/23)

JUNGLE ACTION (10, July). The Panther's rage series continues in "King Cadaver Is Alive And Living In Wakanda." The mystery surrounding the Panther's girl friend deepens as he faces King Cadaver and his legions of death to avenge the death of one of the tribesman. Story by Don McGregor, Billy Graham and Klaus Janson, cover by Gil Kane. (4/23)

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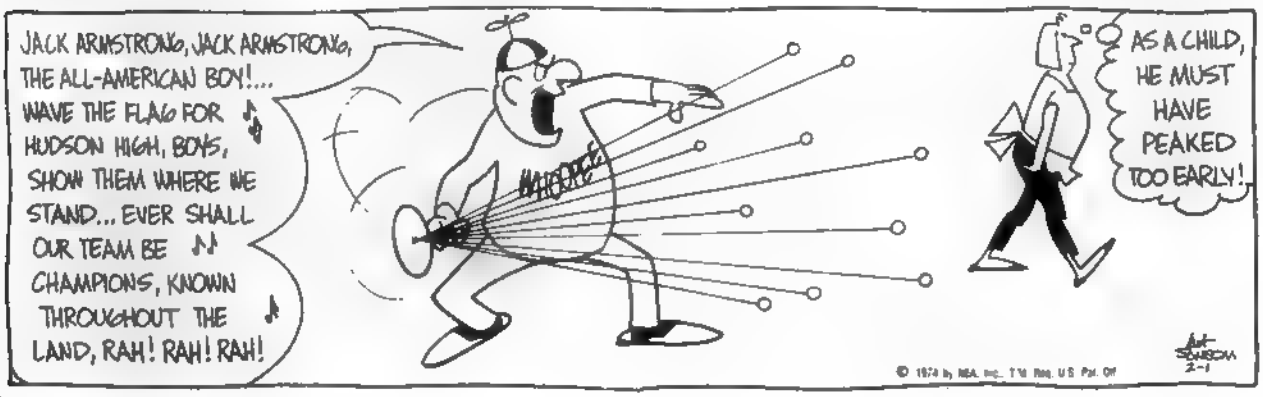
CRAZY (5, July). Illustrated features are: "Worstworld" by Marv Wolfman and Bob McCloud, "Daytime TV" by Marv and Dick Wright, "Nixonland" by Roy Thomas and Vance Rodewalt, "Corruptive Playthings" by Steve Gerber, Marie Severin and Ralph Reese, "Billy-Jerk," "The Heck We Were," "Oozie's Girls," and "Star-Loose," four short satires by Steve Gerber and Robert Graysmith, "Politickles" by Tony Isabella and Dick Wright, and the second parts of two continuing serials: "Just Plain Folk" and "Lights on Nobody." Articles on the Chinese Moose and one about streaking by Stan Lee. (4/30) 75¢

THE BORN LOSER **by Art Sansom**


JACK ARMSTRONG, JACK ARMSTRONG, THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY!... WAVE THE FLAG FOR HUDSON HIGH, BOYS, SHOW THEM WHERE WE STAND... EVER SHALL OUR TEAM BE CHAMPIONS, KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE LAND, RAH! RAH! RAH!
AS A CHILD, HE MUST HAVE PEAKED TOO EARLY!

National Coming Comics

OUR ARMY AT WAR (270, July). Sgt. Rock in "Spawn of the Devil" by Robert Kanigher and George Evans and a Kanigher Gallery of War feature entitled "Lifeless," illustrated by Ric Estrada. (4/2)

GHOSTS (28, July) "Flight of the Lost Phantom" by Leo Dorfman and Don Perlin, "The Corpse in the Cradle" by Al Case and Alfred Alcala, and "Spectre of the Iron Duchess" by Leo Dorfman and Jerry Grandinetti are this issues stories. (4/2)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA 100 pages (112, July-August). Len Wein returns and re-defines Amazo in "The War With the One Man Justice League," drawn by Dick Dillon and Dick Giordano. Reprints are the JLA in "The Super Exiles of Earth," Starman in "Starman's Lucky Star," a Golden Age story by Mort Meskin, and the Seven Soldiers of Victory in the last half of "Beware the Black Star Shines." (4/2) 60¢

100 PAGES 60¢
HERE COME TV'S SUPER-FRIENDS!
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA
NO 112
AUG
3 FULL LENGTH NOVELS!
SUPERMAN
BATMAN
AQUAMAN
FLASH
BLACK CANARY
GREEN LANTERN
THE JLA SUMMONED ME TO SAVE THEM
INSTEAD I KILLED THEM!
BANISHED FROM THIS WORLD FOR LAWLESS ACTS THE JLAERS BECOME THE SUPER-EXILES OF EARTH!
OF VICTORY FACE DEFEAT IN THE WEB OF A SPIDER!
NEW! "WAR WITH THE ONE-MAN JUSTICE LEAGUE"
"BLACK STAR'S MONSTER MENACES!"
STARMAN IN A SOLO STUNNER! PLUS OTHER FANTABULOUS FEATURES!

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YOUNG ROMANCE 100 pages (200, July-August). New and reprinted material. (4/2)

SWAMP THING (11, July-August). Nestor Redondo takes over the art chores with "The Conqueror Worms" as the Swamp Thing fights the worms and Professor Zachery Nail (who first appeared in the Phantom Stranger). Script by Len Wein and cover by Luis Dominguez. (4/2)

KAMANDI (19, July). Kamandi finds humans running Chicago in a 1920's style in this issue's "The Last Gang In Chicago" by Jack Kirby and D. Bruce Berry. (4/9)

SUPERMAN (277, July). Feature story is "The Biggest Game in Town," based very loosely on an Ernest Hemingway story. Credits to Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan and Vince Colletta. The Private Life of Clark Kent presents "The Pizzaria Peril" by Marty Pasko, Curt Swan and Frank Giacoia. (4/9)

THE UNEXPECTED 100 pages (158, July-August). "Reserved For Madman Only" by Carl Wessler, "Nightmare House" by Carl Wessler and E. R. Cruz, "A Hangman Awaits Me" by George Kashdan and John Calnan, "Trial by Terror," and "Flame of Death" are this issue's new stories. Reprints are: "The Bewitched Beauty" by Ruben Moreira, "Prisoner of the Power Stone" by Ruben Moreira, "Captives of the Ant-Kingdom" by Dave Wood and Lee Elias, "Fountain of Youth" by Ruben Moriera, "The Doom Game" by Mort Meskin, "Menace of the Fireball" by Bob Brown, and a Johnny Peril story, "End of Death." Contents page by Pat Broderick. (4/9) 60¢

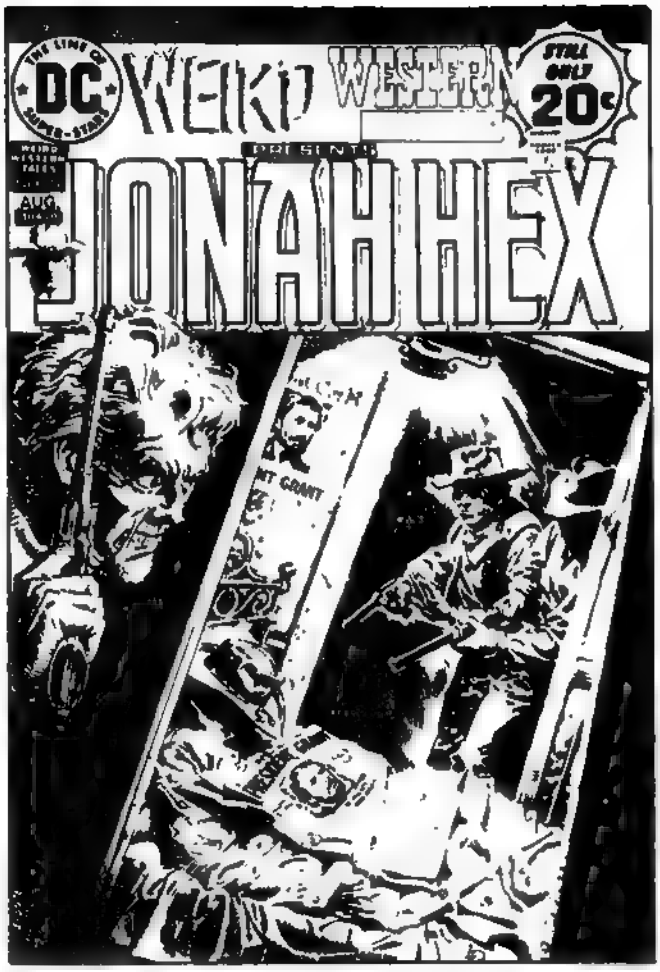
WEIRD WESTERN TALES (23, July-August). Jonah Hex's origin is brought up further in "The Point Phyruss Massacre." It tells about Jonah's attempt to stop the assasination of President Grant. Story by Mike Fleischer and Tony DeZuniga, cover by Luis Dominguez. (4/9)

G.I. COMBAT (172, July-August). The Losers appear in "At the Mercy of My Foes" by Archie Goodwin and Sam Glanzman, back-up feature is "Conquerer" and also included is a Warrior page about Alfred the great by Sam Glanzman. (4/9)

●

THE WITCHING HOUR (44, July). In this issue: "Color the Dead Black" by Carl Wessler, "Kill the Demon Tiger" by Mike Fleischer and Don Perlin, and "Better Off Dead" by Carl Wessler, Mike Sekowsky and Frank Giacoia. (4/16)

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS 100 pages (224, July-August). Superman and Batman appear in "The Shocking Switch of the Super-Sons" by Bob Haney Dick Dillin and Vince Colletta, and a special feature on how the Super Friends TV show is produced with storyboards and cell sketches by Alex Toth. Reprints are: Superman and Batman in "Fort Crime" by Curt Swan and Dick Sprang, "Superman's Secret Master" by Jim Mooney, Metamorpho in "Never Bet On An Element Man" by Bob Haney, Joe Orlando and Mike Esposito, and Johnny Quick in "Tubby Watts - Efficiency Expert." Cover by Nick Cardy. (4/16) 60¢



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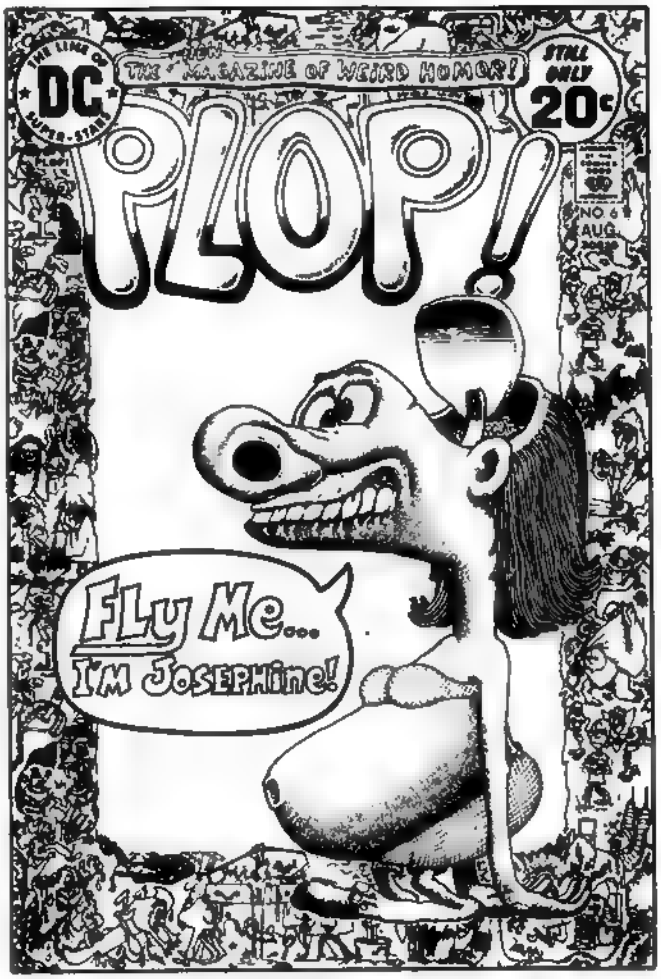

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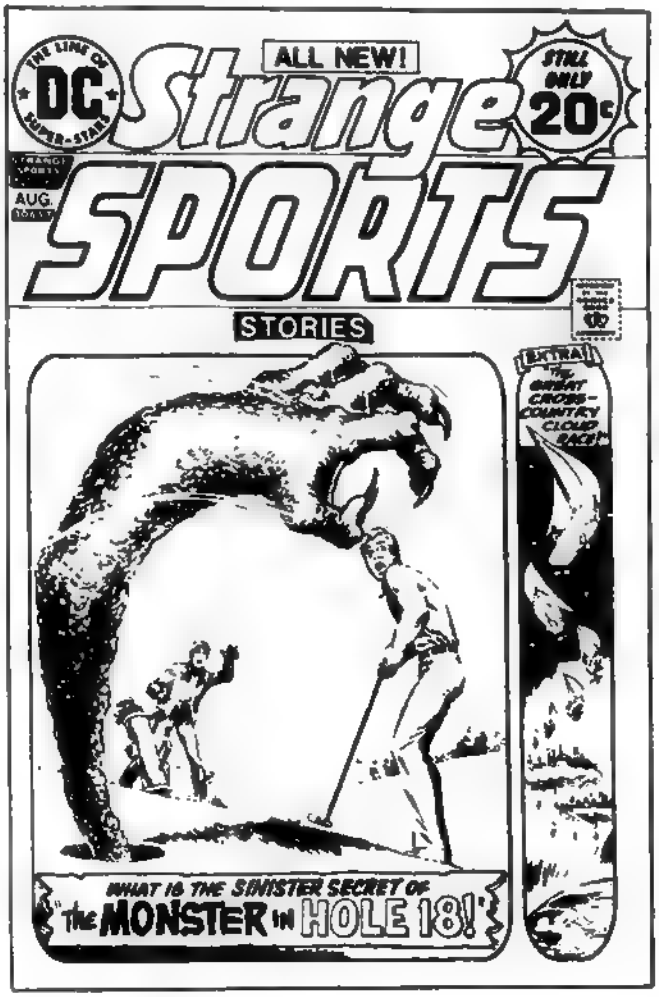

PLOP! (6, July-August). The introductions to the stories have the Plop characters go on a time trip. The stories are "Showdown Sonata" by Lee Marrs, "The Depressed Elephant" by Steve Skeates and Sergio Aragones, "Bits and Pieces of a Corrupt Life" by Steve Skeates, Mike Sekowsky and Bob Oksner, and "The Uninvited Guest" by Steve Skeates and Bill Draut. Cover by Basil Wolverton. (4/16)

SHAZAM! 100 pages (13, July-August). Sunny Sparkle's old gang boss finds a way to make himself as charming as Sunny in "The Case of the Charming Crook" by Elliot Maggin and Bob Oksner, and Mary Marvel appears in "The Haunted Clubhouse" by E. Nelson Bridwell and Bob Oksner. Reprints in this issue that feature the Marvel Family and friends are: "The Pandora Pirates" and "Mr. Tawney's Sales Campaign" by C. C. Beck, plus "Captain Marvel Gets A Secretary," "Mrs. Waggoner's Forbidden Room," "A New Home For Billy" and "The Ancient Crime." Cover by Bob Oksner. (4/16) 60¢

STRANGE SPORTS STORIES (6, July-August). This issue sports "The Monster in Hole 18" by Elliot Maggin and John Rosenberger and "The Cross-Country Cloud Race" by Marty Pasko and John Rosenberger. Last issue. (4/16)

●

WEIRD WAR TALES (27, July). "The General" by Jack Oleck and Alfred Alcala, "Survival of the Fittest" by Jack Oleck and Frank Robbins, and "The Veteran" by Jack Oleck, Don Kirchner and Tex Blaisdell are this issue's featured tales. (4/23)

HOUSE OF SECRETS (121, July) Featured this issue is the unique "Child's Play" by Jack Oleck and Ramona Fradon. The unique aspect is that the pages of the story are divided vertically with the same action seen through two viewpoints. "Ms. Vampire Killer" by Don Glut and Ernie Cruz, "Corpus Delecti" by Jack Oleck and Gerry Taloac, 2 pages by Sergio Aragones, and a cover by Luis Dominguez completes the issue. (4/23)

SUPERBOY (203, July-August). Superboy and the Legion of Super Heroes appear in "Massacre by Remote Control" by Cary Bates and Mike Grell. (4/23)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (181, July-August). The Unknown Soldier stars in "One Guy in the Right Place" by Frank Robbins and Jack Sparling and the first of three parts of the Enemy Ace facing Steve Savage, the Balloon Buster battle called "Hell's Angels" and done by Robert Kanigher and Frank Thorne. (4/23)

THE FLASH (228, July-August). Cary Bates is the special guest star in the Flash story this issue - "The Day I Saved the Life of the Flash" by Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Tex Blaisdell. Green Lantern appears in the conclusion of the story in which his ring rebels against him in "My Enemy - Myself!" by Denny O'Neil, Dick Dillin and Dick Giordano. Cover by Nick Cardy. (4/23)

BATMAN 100 pages (257, July-August). The Penguin wants to become an emperor, but first he needs an empire. Batman is the one to stop him in "Hail, Emperor Penguin" by Denny O'Neil, Irv Novick and Dick Giordano. Previously presented tales this issue are: "Ally Babble and the 14 Peeves" by Bill Finger and Dick Sprang, "Rackety Rax Racket" by Dick Sprang, Alfred in "The Conversation Clue," "Hunt For a Robin Killer" by Gardner Fox, Gil Kane and Sid Greene, and "Die Small, Die Big" by Bob Kanigher, Bob Brown and Joe Giella. Cover by Nick Cardy. (4/30) 60¢

ADVENTURE COMICS (434, July-August). The Astral Avenger battles animated manikans in a book-length tale. "The Nightmare Dummys and The Spectre" is by Mike Fleischer, Russell Carley, Frank Thorne and Jim Aparo. Cover is by Aparo and coloring is by Tatjana Wood. (4/30)

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SOLO-STARRING IN THIS ISSUE!
GREEN LANTERN
STILL ONLY 20¢
THE FLASH
NOW DO YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN'T MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT ME, FLASH?
WHO IS THE MYSTERY MAN THAT CONTROLS EVERY MOVE OF THE FLASH'S LIFE?

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ACTION COMICS 100 pages (437, July). The lead story features Green Arrow and Superman co-starring in"Magic Is Bustin' Out All Over" by Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan and Vince Colletta. This story, which has cameo appearances by The Flash and Green Lantern, is a sequel to "The World of Faceless Slaves" from WORLD'S FINEST #210. Stories that are reprints are: Adam Strange in "The Riddle of the Runaway Rockets" by Gardner Fox, Carmine Infantino and Murphy Anderson, Dollman in "The Man Who Returned From the Dead," The Sea Devils in "The Octopus Man" by Robert Kanigher and Russ Heath, "I Was King of the Daredevils" from MY GREATEST ADVENTURE #3, and Matt Savage, Trail Boss in "The Barbed Wire Barricade" by Gardner Fox and Gil Kane. Nick Cardy cover. (4/30) 60¢

A Letter from the Editors

The very large and very emphatic notice we placed upon the last page of the last issue (and which will appear on ALL future issues) seems to have had good results in that most of our subscribers got TCR within four days of our mailing. Hopefully that brought it to you at a time when its coming comics listings were still useful.

Anyone out there willing to volunteer us some steady information about current undergrounds? We have had neither the time or money to gather the news ourselves, and we certainly cannot promise anything beyond a free sub for the help, but we have felt guilty about ignoring comix totally. (The only current item we have is that BIJOU #8 has sold well enough in the few months it's been out to go into a second printing. Perhaps comix are on the upswing again?)

You may not have noticed it, but due to the recent increase in postage, we've had to jack up our subscription rates again. It seems that we have taken what used to be (under Paul Levitz) a profitable venture, and succeeded in going into debt fairly quickly. Thus, the extra $75 in mailing charges it now takes will cause us to go even deeper into debt -- and who needs that? The new rates are FIVE issues for $2, and TEN issues for $4, and appropriate increases for foreign subbers. This is a cost of 40¢ an issue, and we think you'll think it's a worthwhile 40¢.

Et Al

STAR*REACH #1, published by Star*Reach Publications, 25325 Windfeldt Road, Hayward, Calif. 94541, is due out as we go to press. It will feature "Cody Starbuck" by Howie Chaykin, "Suburban Fish" and "Fish Myth" by Steve Skeates, "The Birth of Death," "The Origin of God," and "Death Building" by Jim Starlin, and a sword and sorcery satire (of sorts) by Walt Simonson. This underground format comic will be 48 pages and have covers by Howie Chaykin and Jim Starlin. Copies are available for $1 including postage from Star*Reach Publications.

Earl Blair of Houston and the S.F.C.A. of Miami are combining to put on two complete conventions that will be in the same place and at the same time. June 20th through the 23rd at the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel in Houston will see a combined HOUSTONCON '74 with STAR TREK '74, with an admission of $7.50 or $10 at the door for both cons. Guests will include Al Williamson, Don Newton, Jock Mahoney and Walter "Mr. Chekov" Koening. For more information write Earl Blair, 2511 Pennington Street, Houston, TX, 77015.

July 11th to the 14th will see the 4th annual American Nostalgia Convention in Dallas. The first progress booklet is available from Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland, Carrolton, TX, 75006.

A new bi-monthly tabloid devoted to the movie serial is SERIAL WORLD, available for $1 from Serial World, P.O. Box 64177, Los Angeles, CA, 90064.

Dan Gheno has apiece on comic book writing in the current issue of WRITERS' DIGEST. The 1974 WRITERS' YEARBOOK has an illustrated article on Little Nemo. Both are available on your closest magazine rack.

Due out in August is THE ART OF HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATION by Nick Meglin. From Watson-Guptill, this large, well illustrated book will examine the methods of getting something funny down on paper, as done by twelve well known artists of today.

The Publishers-Hall Syndicate adventure strip DATELINE: DANGER! by John Saunders and Alden McWilliams, was discontinued on March 17th. It began in November of 1968. With the demise of FRIDAY FOSTER and AMBLER in recent monthes, this speaks evil for the newspaper adventure strip. No replacement has been settled on for it in the Menomonee Falls GAZETTE as of yet. The GAZETTE does have in preparation an entirely new, never before published strip by a professional artist that will debut in the near future. A sample copy of the GAZETTE is 75¢ from Street Enterprises, publishers of TCR.

Charlton News

A new comics heroine will debut in E-MAN #5, October (on sale in July). Miss Liberty Belle will first appear as a back-up story in that issue and will be done by Joe Gill and Steve Ditko. Issue #4 will feature the return of Killjoy as a back-up. It first appeared in E-MAN number 2.

Coming Comics

BEETLE BAILEY (106, July). (4/2)

GHOSTLY HAUNTS (39, July). (4/2)

BARNEY & BETTY RUBBLE (8, July) (4/9)

GHOST MANOR (19, July). (4/9)

YANG (3, July). Joe Gill and Warren Sattler. (4/16)

FIGHTIN' ARMY (114, July). (4/16)

DR. GRAVES (46, July). (4/18)

BLONDIE (209, July). (4/18)

BILLY THE KID (108, July). (4/23)

JUST MARRIED (101, July). (4/23)

HAUNTED (17, July). "Greed" by Pete Morisi and his son, Steve, the first "Baron Weirwulf's Library" by Nick Cuti and Don Newton, "Sargasso Trap" by Joe Gill and Pat Boyette, and "A Budding Evil" written and drawn by Tom Sutton. Cover by Tom Sutton. (4/30)

MIDNIGHT TALES (8, July). "Amnesia," an introduction by Nick Cuti and Wayne Howard, conects the following stories: "The Killgore Monster" by Cuti and Tom Sutton, "No Witnesses" by Cuti and Joe Staton, and "The Pearl" written and illustrated by Wayne Howard. Cover, by Wayne Howard, was printed in TCR #103. (4/30)

CON'EM

THE CUT THROAT

SEXY SIRENE MEETS THE LITERATE MONSTER !!!

REVIEW:

WONDER WOMAN

It's really odd, if you think about it. All these years of waiting for an acceptable version of WONDER WOMAN, and suddenly, I get two different ones on the same day. Wonder Woman has long been one of my pet peeves, beginning, I suspect, when I was twelve and feeling guilty about buying the comic. Somehow, it would have softened the sociological stigma a bit if the magazine wasn't such a silly, garbled mess. Robert Kanigher's mid - '60s Wonder Woman was not aimed at pre-pubescent girls -- it was aimed at pre-second grade girls. Plotwise, characterizationwise and logicwise, the treatment had to be questioned by anyone not a female under seven. Kanigher eventually got enough flack from the then burgeoning fandom letterhacks who populated Julie Schwartz's books to attempt to revive the 1940's Wonder Woman -- but removed none of the silliness, illogic and non-characterization and we soon found ourselves with Jack Miller as editor and Mike Sekowsky as writer-penciller. They couldn't cope with the twenty-five previous years of insipid stories and the dreary character herself and created an entirely new character who had almost nothing in common with Wonder Woman except being Diana Prince. The stories were a bit more interesting and thought out, but were never quite what was required. Wonder Woman was conceived as a separate but equal (if you will) version of Superman, and to remove all the trappings that were identified with the Superman image (i.e., to that of the ordinary woman) was to somehow cheat the purpose. So even though the succession of editors and artists (the O'Neil-Giordano being the peak) turned out some partially satisfying stuff, someone realized it wasn't working and gave the book and the character back to Kanigher. He promptly turned it back into something even worse than the pre-second grade version since the artwork was so bad, ignoring the previous three year's occurances. Finally, the book was given to the person who should have had it in the first place -- Julie Schwartz -- who has given, finally, a readable version of the super-powered, costumed heroine that we should have been getting all these years. Len Wein, as writer, has also assumed responsibility for explaining all that scatterbrained nonsense that occured with the Kanigher takeover, and does it well. My only apprehension is that the 12 labors bit will become cloying, and that the succession of different artists and writers will do little to help the book, whose circulation has long been on shaky ground. (It is too bad that this first issue was marred by Tex Blaisdell's obliteration of Curt Swan's artwork. I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say that I saw a resemblance between Wonder Woman and Little Orphan Annie.)

SUPER-HEROINE NUMBER ONE!
STILL ONLY 20¢
DC
Wonder Woman
NO. 212
JULY
PLEASE, WONDER WOMAN! YOU MUST COME BACK! THE JUSTICE LEAGUE NEEDS YOU!
NO, SUPERMAN! I CAN'T!
YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ WONDER WOMAN'S STRANGEST STORY! AND I AM GOING TO TELL IT TO YOU EXACTLY AS IT HAPPENED!

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It is quite possible that the circulation of WONDER WOMAN could soon receive a large boost. Television tie-ins with the comics did marvelous things for the circulation of all comics in 1966 and there's no reason why a similar, albeit smaller, effect might be caused should ABC decide to provide Wonder Woman with a weekly television berth. There are very many good things to be said about the pilot which aired March 12 on ABC's Tuesday Movie of the Week. Not the least of these reasons is the fact that, should this series be bought, it would be the first -- yes, the first -- action-adventure to ride on the acting-shoulders of

a woman. As unbelievable and disgraceful as it sounds, we've been told that a woman cannot carry a dramatic action series by herself. It will be a victory, small as it is, for women. And it will be right. The second reason is Cathy Lee Crosby. The role was played with humor, intelligence, wit, sophistication and poise; apparently at her own insistance. Although the concept is laced with fantasy -- the Amazons, Paradise Island, a passing mention of her invisible robot plane (it's never made clear whether we're to believe her miraculous speed at transcontinental travel is due to her famous plane or contacts at all the big airports)

-- she's entirely believable, though never overpowering. Her strength is not unbelievable, she doesn't fly and she does not deflect bullets with her bracelets (thank God). Apparently, the inherent problems involved in remaking a "Superman" type show (mat shots and animation cells) were wisely avoided by writer and executive producer John D. F. Black (whom you may recall as the first script consultant for STAR TREK), who decided to play it just slightly wilder than James Bond. I find it no real problem that Crosby has light brown hair and that the costume she wears (Her red and blue uniform, designed by Jill Thomas, is much more utilitarian and logical than the iron corset and girdle that WW's been sporting all these years. Not to mention the omission of the rather ridiculous shorts that all comic book heroines must wear to join their union.) is not traditional; hopefully, neither will potential comics readers be put off by the differences. It is rather sad, however, that the Intelligence Head played by Kaz Garras is named Steve Trevor; it seems that Julie Schwartz has a problem with killed off characters coming back to haunt him (Do I forsee a return of the Outsider?). The basic plot of the pilot seemed to be the weak point of the story, with some rather phony emotionalism connected with a set of books that revealed the identities and operations of thirty nine of Trevor's agents. Perhaps the hour format of a weekly series will remedy that. And hopefully, the cliffhangers-before-commercials will be played down a bit as there is really very little chance that our heroine will get crushed by a moving wall or speared by a javelin. This is the inconsistency in an otherwise "adult" action-adventure show. And I'm apprehensive about the use of a renegade Amazon as a continuing character, especially since the actress who plays Angela is a graduate of the Barbara Bain school of acting (attempt to look sultry and hope they don't notice you're blowing the lines). Otherwise, I liked the colorful villainy of Andrew Prine and, for the first time ever, I even liked Ricardo Montalban. Outrageousness in villains should work well, as it has in GOLDFINGER and other James Bond films. Happily, this Wonder Woman is not sexless, unlike the traditional Wonder Woman, is not adverse to a drink, now and then, and has taste in clothes. I think Gloria Steinem will be able to expouse a bit more truthful admiration for this Wonder Woman, who unlike the Charles Moulton Marston creation, never clobbers criminals with the glories of female supremacy, but proves herself through action.

I do not think that everyone involved in the show had the same idea of how to treat the character, and unfortunately, it showed. The actors, the writer and the director are all going to have to determine beforehand whether they're going to play this for laughs or whether they're going to try to really portray a woman, independent of the ridiculousness of her origin and superpowers. Somebody here must've thought they were remaking "Batman" -- and that is NOT going to work. There is something worthwhile in this that could benefit comics, if not televison. Let's hope it does.

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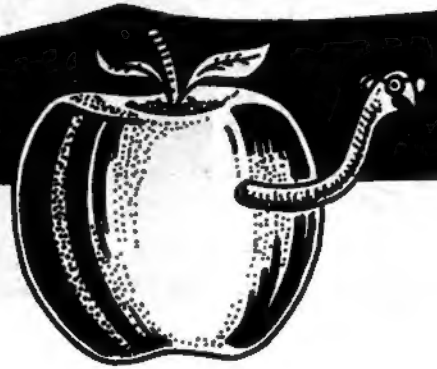

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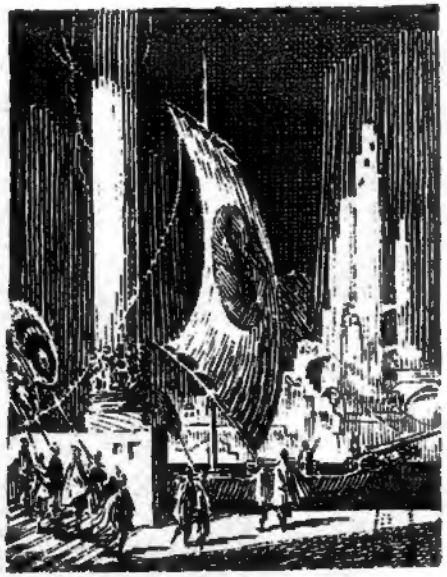
by Roy G Krenkel



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